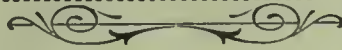




✦ BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY. ✦



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1899.

W. E. TOLLEY, PRINTER & STATIONER, BEWDLEY.



TO THE

TOWN COUNCIL OF BEWDLEY.

Jan. 22nd, 1900

GENTLEMEN.

Death Rate. During the year ending December 31st, 1899. there were 41 Deaths registered in the Borough, the death rate being 14.25 per 1000 per annum. These deaths are tabulated in Table A, from which it will be seen that there were 12 deaths under 1 year, and 10 over 65 years of age.

Of the 12 under 1 year, 7 were from Congenital Debility or Premature Birth, all of these living only a few hours or days.

The majority of the deaths took place in the first and last quarters of the year during the severe weather.

Four of the deaths were from Diptheria as reported elsewhere.

There is nothing further to remark concerning the death-rate except that it was the smallest since 1889.

The Infantile Mortality was 157, which is above the average, but is accounted for above.

Birth Rate. The number of Births registered was 76, the Birth rate being 26.42 per 1000 per annum.

Zymotic Disease. Under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Acts there were 7 cases of Scarlet Fever notified (all over 5 years of age), 5 cases of Diptheria (2 under 5 years and 3 over 5 years of age, and 3 cases of Erysipelas (all over 5 years of age).

Four of the cases of Diptheria proved fatal but all the other Zymotic cases recovered.

Great care was taken in isolating these cases, and providing disinfectants, and periodical visits were made by your inspector, Mr. Humpherson, and in consequence of this: Zymotic disease did not become epidemic.

I must however, point out to the Council that this cannot always be so successful, and therefore I must again press upon them the advisability of making some arrangement for complete isolation of any case that may arise especially as judging from the past history of Epidemic disease in the Borough, we may reasonably expect that Scarlatina will be again prevalent before long.

Water.

As was mentioned in last year's Annual Report, permission to bore at Blackstone was obtained, and boring operations were commenced in the early part of the year. These were continued until the Engineer was satisfied that there was a sufficient quantity of water, of good quality.

At the present time the Council are proceeding with a scheme to obtain water from this source.

Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

Under the "Housing of the Working Classes Act" many houses have been rendered fit for habitation, one house has been closed, two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with, and two prosecutions took place, a conviction being obtained in each case, after which the houses were put in a sanitary condition.

Two new houses were erected during the year.

Public Health Act.

Under the "Public Health Act" one prosecution was ordered by the Council, and a conviction was obtained and the premises were afterwards put in a sanitary condition.

Systematic Inspection.

Regularly carried out by Mr. Humpherson and myself.

House Accommodation.

This is sufficient for the inhabitants, but in view of the fact that Bewdley is becoming a favourite pleasure resort during the summer, more houses are then required, as at present a considerable amount of overcrowding takes place.

Overcrowding

Two cases were satisfactorily dealt with.

Drainage.

A great many drains have again been relaid and repaired during the year.

Excrement Disposal, and Scavenging.	I must again call the attention of the Council to the fact that this has not been satisfactory during the year and until this is more efficiently done, the inhabitants can hardly be blamed for throwing ashes, refuse, slops, &c. on the streets and roadsides.
Burialgrounds	Satisfactory.
Canal Boats.	Regularly inspected.
Bakehouses.	Satisfactory and regularly inspected.
Slaughter houses.	In a satisfactory condition and regularly inspected. One prosecution for slaughtering in an unlicensed place took place, a conviction being secured.
Common Lodging-Houses.	None.
Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milkshops.	In consequence of the adoption of the Act of 1885, these were all inspected during May, and found in good condition, and the cattle well cared for.
Offensive trades.	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act	No case.
Food unfit for Human Consumption.	No case.
Bye-laws.	Duly carried out.
River Pollution.	In the same condition as last year.
Industries.	Agriculture. Horn Manufacture, Brassfounding, Basket-making, Carpet-making and Wool-spinning, (at Kidderminster), Rope-making, and Tanning.
Vans & Tents.	None, except at Fair time, when they are inspected.
Fruit & Pea Pickers.	Generally composed of residents.

Factories and
Workshops.

Regularly inspected

Special
Report.

None.

Conclusion.

In concluding this report, while congratulating the Council on the smaller death-rate, and the absence of any serious Epidemic, I would suggest to the Council, that considering the increasing popularity of the district as a holiday resort in the summer, they should press on with the question of the supply of water, the scarcity of which makes itself more evident every year: that some provision should be made for the reception and isolation of Infectious cases, so as to safeguard against an epidemic; that the disposal of excrement, and the scavenging should be put in a more satisfactory condition; and that a complete system of drainage and sewage disposal should be carefully considered in order amongst other reasons, to lessen the pollution of the River.

If these improvements were carried out, I am convinced that more houses would be built, and that the population, and the Rateable value of the town would become increased, and that a new era of prosperity would dawn upon our ancient Borough.

I append Statistical Tables marked A. B. and C.

And am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

TREVOR WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1899, in the Borough of Bewdley, Urban District
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards		Diphtheria	Pththisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All Other Diseases.	Total.
Bewdley	41	12	7	2	2	8	10	Under 5	2		4			10	16
							
								5 upwards	2	1	4	3	1	14	25
Totals ...	41	12	7	2	2	8	10	Under 5	2		4			10	16
							
								5 upwards	2	1	4	3	1	14	25

TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Borough of Bewdley Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.	Number of such Cases Re- moved from their Homes in the several Localities for Treat- ment In Isolation Hospital.		
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1899.					
Bewlley Borough	2876	2876	76	Under 5 5 upwards	Scarlatina. 7 3	Diphtheria. 2 3 2	Erysipelas 3
	2876	2876	76	Under 5 5 upwards	Scarlatina. 7 3	Diphtheria. 2 3 2	Erysipelas 3

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? Yes. Since when? February, 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; or if not within the District, state where it is situated; None.

TABLE C.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

Area in Acres. 2070. Population 1881, 3088. Population 1891, 2876. Decrease, 1881-91. 212.
Estimated Population 1899, 2876.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			REGISTERED DEATHS.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under. 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
39	37	76	17	24	41	12	7	2	2	8	10

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Diphtheria.	Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia	Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Other Diseases.
4	2	1	1	7	3	23

Birth Rate, 26.42. Death Rate, 14.25. Zymotic Death Rate, 1.39. Inf. Mortal., 157. Phthisis Death Rate, .34 Resp. Death Rate, 2.78. Smallpox Death Rate, Nil. Measles Death Rate, Nil. Scarlatina Death Rate, Nil. Diphtheria Death Rate, 1.39. Whooping Cough Death Rate, Nil. Fever Death Rate, Nil. Diarrhoea Death Rate, Nil. Cancer Death Rate, .68

TABLE C. (Continued).

		Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.
		Several	7	5	3
Cases			
Deaths		4	

Diseases prevalent, Measles and Influenza. Period,
Summer and December. Schools closed, None.